विचार करे नहीं तो इसके बहुत गलत संकेत उस क्षेत्र में जा रहे हैं। वहां का नागरिक अशांत होता जा रहा है और उस में पूरे समाज के प्रति एक प्रकार से विद्रोह की भावना पनपती जा रही है। मैं सरकार से आग्रह करना चाहता हूं कि उन के संरक्षण की व्यवस्था हो और ऐसे आदमखोर बाघों के शिकार लोगों के परिवारों को मानवीय दृष्टि से एक लाख या दो लाख जो भी निश्चित हो, दिया जाना चाहिये। इतना ही मेरा निवेदन है। धन्यवाद।

SPECIAL MENTIONS

Hindustan Cables Ltd.—Procurement of orders from Deptt. of Communications

SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY (Andhra Pradesh): Thank you, Mr. Vice-Chairman. The Hindustan Cables Limited, a government of India undertaking is a premier telephone cables factory in India. It employs about 6,500 employees in its three units — West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh. The Hyderabad unit of HCL is employing 2,200 skilled workers. The HCL's entire products are purchased by the Department of Telecommuications, Government of India. Although the private sector is competing, the Hindustan Cables Limited has achieved a remarkable production which is evident from the fact that during 1996-97, the production is likely to be 30 lakh CKM. This indicates 90.91% of its capacity utilisation. In spite of stiff competition from the private sector, the company could maintain the fixed cost of production because they get orders from the Department of Telecommunications.

However, in the year 1996-97, the Hyderabad unit has faced shortage of orders and as a result, utilisation of production capacity could not reach 100%. Sir, after 31st March, 1997, the Hyderabad unit will be left with no orders for carrying on the production and making supplies to the Department of Telecommunications.

In the meanwhile, a tender has been floated by the Department of Telecommunications and is due for opening on 25th March, 1997. It is expected that the orders would be placed by the Department of Telecommunications on all Companies, including HCL, after processing the tender which will take a minimum time of three months. Hence, this three months time is very crucial for the Hyderabad Unit. Unless this unit is given some adhoc orders now, it will not be possible for the unit even to pay the salaries to their employees. This will create a very difficult situation for the families of 2,200 employees and will lead to heavy losses. It is, in this regard I would like to bring it to your notice that the I.T.I., another public sector company under the Ministry of Communications, is being favoured, as a policy, with 30% reservation of orders and 50% advance payment.

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): It is 75% advance payment not 50%.

SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY: Yes, it is 75%. Sir, in addition to the orders placed against reservation, they also compete in the tender and get their share of competitive orders. I, therefore, request the hon. Communications Minister to kindly favour the Hyderabad unit of the HCL and the other two units to extend concessions which are extended to the I.T.I. i.e., 30% reservation of orders and 75% advance payment, as a policy matter, in addition to the share of competitive order against the tender from the Department of Telecommunications. This particular help extended to the Hindustan Cables will keep the Hyderabad Unit running and they will be able to carry out their activities and continue to pay salaries to their employees by engaging them fully in production. I also appeal to the Government to detach the Hindustan Cables from the Ministry of Industry and bring it under the Department of Telecommunications. Mr. Vice-

Chairman, Sir, Shri Beni Prasad Varma, hon'ble Minister for Communications, is present in the House. I say that he alone can save the industry; not even God can save it. He is more powerful than God, as far as the fate of this industry is concerned. Therefore, I request the Minister to come to the rescue of the 6500 HCL employees and give an assurance to the House that HCL will be saved from losses.

Thank you, Vice-Chairman, Sir.

SHRI NILOTPAL BASU (West Bengal): Sir, while associating-myself with the issue Mr. Reddy has raised, so far as HCL is concerned, DOT has given an order and has given an advance payment also. Now there has to be a continuity because whatever order was given, has been very successfully executed by the HCL against all odds. So, the hon'ble Minister who is present here, should assure the House. Since, this unit is under the Ministry of Industry, we want that the Ministry of Industry should also infuse some working capital; otherwise, it would be very difficult to sustain the unit for a longer time. Some financial restructuring of the Company has also to be made.

C-DOT Technology Revival of ITI Units

SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA (Karnataka): While reacting to Mr. Reddy's statement, the hon'ble Minister said that it is 30 per cent order and 75 per cent advance to ITI. Sir, the industries, which have entered into the country, are maintaining 90 to 95 per cent of the local orders; while you are snatching 70 per cent of the order. This aspect you have forgotten.

The C-DOT has accomplished its mission of commissioning 40,000 Digital Telephone Exchange lines. It is a very impressive achievement. It is a great honour for the country that out of 21,000 exchanges operational in India, nearly 20,000 are based on C-DOT technology. These exchanges are installed countrywide, which include all the State capitals, district headquarters, tehsils and villages. It is, therefore, worth appreciating the remarkable contribution made by the C-DOT in solving the telecom needs of the country. It might be pertinent to mention that prior to the induction of C-DOT equipments into the DOT network, the connectivity within the country, especially the STD and ISD stations, not to talk of rural areas, was negligible, whereas today DOT has been able to expand its network to more than 10,000 STD stations. Thanks to the CDOT technology, this is the second major impact of the C-DOT technology on DOT network and services. Subsequently, there has been an unprecendented exponential growth in the network.

Today, with the induction of the 40,000 line exchanges along with a number of RLUs in a city like Bangalore, C-DOT exchange should be deployed wherever there is a requirement for more than 10,000 lines going up to 40,000 lines. We have no objection for expanding the foreign companies in the metros. I am talking of the rural areas. We must restrict the induction of New Technology Exchanges, from now onwards, to the four metros.

As far as the rest of the country is concerned, it would be appropriate if we deploy our own indigenous C-DOT technology. This will result in a saving of more than Rs. 600 crores in price difference, and also invaluable foreign exchange. It will give a boost to the public sector undertakings, such as, ITI, which has been entrusted with the task of technology transfer.

Sir, a comparative statement of C-DOT technology *vis-a-vis* the new technology shows contributions of C-DOT technology and suitability of C-DOT exchanges in rural, semi-urban, urban and metro cities in India and confirms the fact that C-DOT technology meets almost all the requirements of the DOT. In this context, all the plants of ITI Limited, which include the Model Plant, Bangalore, and the main units at Bangalore, Palghat,